



KEEPING IT SAFE

Department of

LIQUOR CONTROL

240-777-1904

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Division of Licensure, Regulation and Education

WINE “DOGGY BAG” BILL

Maryland restaurant diners who order a bottle of wine with their meal but don't finish the whole bottle may now take the bottle home with them. Under a new Maryland law that took effect on July 1, 2006, restaurants may allow unfinished bottles to leave the premises, provided that servers re-cork or re-cap the unfinished bottle.

The following is compliance information for Montgomery County on premise and on/off premise alcohol beverage license holders:

- The license holder or an employee of the license holder must insert cork or place a cap on the unfinished bottle.
- Re-corked bottle should be securely re-corked, pushing the cork as far into the bottle as possible. Re-capped wines should be tightly re-capped.
- The new law applies ONLY to WINE and does not cover beer or spirits.
- Maryland law prohibits open containers in what is considered to be in “passenger areas” of automobiles. Remind your customers that the unfinished bottle of wine is still considered an “open container”. It MUST be transported in the trunk, cargo area, locked glove compartment or area behind the rear-most seat of an automobile.
- The new law implies ONLY to unfinished bottles of wine. The law DOES NOT allow for full bottles of wine to be sold to go.

For additional information please contact:

**Montgomery County Board of License Commissioners at 240-777-1999 or
Montgomery County DLC Community Outreach at 240-777-1904/240-777-1989**